

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-18 are currently pending. The claim amendments are supported by the description "the task management application program 106 utilizes the DDC 120 to transmit operating conditions during the automatic operation to the monitor 110" in paragraph [0029] of the specification, for example.

The "electric power condition" is supported by the description in paragraph [0005] of the specification. The "automatic operation" is supported by the description in paragraphs [0021] and [0029] of the specification. The control of the input/output device based on the electric power condition is supported by step 413 in Fig. 4 and by the description in paragraph [0034] of the specification.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the disclosure was objected to due to an informality. In particular, the Examiner stated that pages 7-8 of the specification and page 14 of the claims include letters that are in different fonts and slanted orientation than the rest of the disclosure.

Applicants contacted the Examiner via telephone and explained that the originally filed specification does not include any variation in font or slanted orientation of text. Applicants believe that the problem may be due to a PTO scanning error, as the originally filed application is in proper format and contains no such font variation or slanted orientation of text. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-7, 10-14, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030061526A1 (Hashimoto).

Hashimoto (US2003/0061526A1) discloses a computer system in which, depending on whether a timer expiration-waiting event is present, one of two power-saving modes is entered. When the timer expiration-waiting event is present, a first power saving mode in which a timer interrupt is allowed is entered. When the timer expiration-waiting event is not present, a second power saving mode in which a timer interrupt is disabled is entered.

In addition, as background art, it is described that upon detecting a hardware component being in an idle state, power consumption of hardware is reduced, and when the hardware requires the power, the hardware is operated normally.

According to the present invention, as shown in Fig. 5, when an information processing apparatus controlling an input/output device is carrying out an automatic operation such as an

operation by a timer, the power control of the input/output device is carried out independently from the state of the input/output data of the input/output device.

By controlling electric power of the input/output device during automatic operation, the electric power consumption is reduced. In addition, during automatic operation, the input/output device does not disturb the user's sleep or user's any other action.

As indicated in independent claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 14, and 18, during the automatic operation, an input/output device is controlled based on the electric power condition stored in the storage section.

As a result, during automatic operation in which a user does not operate the information processing apparatus, power consumption of the input/output device can be reduced. In addition, during automatic operation, the user is not disturbed by light or sound which would be output from the input/output device if, contrary to the present invention, the input/output device is controlled during the automatic operation.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the above-identified feature of the input/output device, which is not controlled by the electric power condition during automatic operation.

Therefore, the above-identified independent claims of the present invention are patentable over the reference. As the dependent claims depend from the independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable over the reference for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

Claims 8-9 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Japanese patent abstract no. 11126118A (Yasunobu).

Yasunobu discloses a feature of limiting brightness of the backlight of an LCD device by reducing output electric power during a waiting period when an input operation is not necessary. In addition, it is described that, during operation of a designated application, the backlight of the LCD is controlled to a set brightness.

As Yasunobu is completely silent regarding the above-identified feature and adds no relevant information to Hashimoto, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-9 and 15-16 are patentable over the references, as neither of the references, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified features of the independent claims, from which dependent claims 8-9 and 15-16 depend.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,442,443B1 (Fujii).

Fujii is directed to power-saving in an audio amplifier while in a mute state. As Fujii is silent regarding the above-identified feature of the present invention and adds no relevant information to Hashimoto, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is patentable over Fujii, as Fujii fails to teach or suggest the above-identified features of independent claim 10, from which claim 17 depends.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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